

REMARKS

Consideration of the application and the amendments above is respectfully requested.

In the specification, the new paragraph to be inserted on page 1, line 5, was added after the "TITLE OF THE INVENTION" paragraph on page 1, lines 1-3 and before the "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" paragraph on page 1, lines 5-11, to provide the priority of the present application.

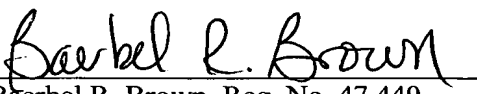
No new matter is being added to the above-captioned application by the submission of the Abstract of the Invention, because it is identical to that in the priority document PCT/US2004/011253. For the Examiner's convenience, a separate sheet for the Abstract of the Invention (page 45) is enclosed for inclusion with the specification of the U.S. National Phase Application being filed.

Original Claims 1-38 of the present application were amended under PCT Article 19 (35 USC 371(c)(3) as follows: Claim 1-30 and 32-38 were unchanged, Claim 31 was canceled, and Claim 39 was added. The claims as amended under PCT Article 19 are listed starting on page 3 of this Preliminary Amendment. The amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 have been communicated to Merck by the International Bureau and the amended claims were published as WO 2004/092126 A3 on March 31, 2005.

Claims 1-30 and 32-39 are pending in the present application.

Applicants respectfully contend that the application is allowable, and a favorable response from the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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